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B 4. (AMENDED) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1, wherein the bolt hole (8) is situated between the first supporting protrusion (5) and the opening cover (2).

5. (AMENDED) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1, wherein the bolt hole (8) is situated in the portion of the cylindrical body side wall facing to the first supporting protrusion (5).

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B 15. (NEW) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars, comprising a hollow cylindrical body having an opening cover (2) at an end, a bolt hole (8) on the side wall, and supporting protrusions (5) on the inner peripheral wall, adapted to support reinforcing bars (12) with bolts (13) and the supporting protrusions (5), wherein:
each supporting protrusion (5) consists of a pair of thin-walled members extending in the longitudinal direction of the hollow cylindrical body; and
said thin-walled members each have a ridge line (7) sloping toward the opening cover (2), with the portion of the thin-walled member supporting the reinforcing bar (12) inserted through the opening cover (2) constituting the apex; and
engagement of the thin-walled members with the reinforcing bars aligns the reinforcing bars in a substantially coaxial fashion.

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B 16. (NEW) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 15, wherein the line segment connecting the contact points of the pair of thin-walled members and the cylindrical body inner wall is arranged perpendicularly to the thin-walled members, the distance between the pair of thin-walled members increasing continuously from the reinforcing bar supporting portions (6) toward the opening cover (2) side of the hollow cylindrical body.

Remarks:

In the Office Action dated October 16, 2002, claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, as indefinite. The Examiner states that the claim language is inconsistent because Applicant claims supporting protrusions consisting of thin walled members